

Message Text

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43

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ADP-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 SSO-00 RSR-01

RSC-01 /026 W

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O 171315Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1229

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 9792

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (DRINAN, ROBERT F.) UR, PFOR

SUBJ: SOVIET VISA FOR CONGRESSMAN DRINAN

REF: STATE 163141

1. I CALLED ON ACTING HEAD USA DIVISION, MFA, MIKHAILOV, TO EXPRESS DIPARTMENT'S AND EMBASSY'S DEEP CONCERN OVER EVIDENT REFUSAL OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO GRANT VISA TO CONGRESSMAN DRINAN. I NOTED THAT DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE, HAD MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO EXPRESS SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE VIEWED THIS MATTER. SINCE CONGRESSMAN DRINAN PLANNED TO VISIT SOVIET UNION IN HIS CAPACITY AS A MEMBER OF U.S. CONGRESS, HE WOULD NATURALLY CONSIDER REFUSAL AS A ACT OF DISCRIMINATION AND ADVERSE PUBLICITY COULD BE EXPECTED. DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY ATTACNED A GREAT DEAL OF IMPORTANCE TO CONGRESSIONAL VISITS BECAUSE THEY PROVIDED ON-THE-SPOT OPPORTUNITIES TO OBSERVE THE VARIOUS FACETS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THESE VISITS HAD A DIRECT BEARING ON DECISIONS THAT CONGRESS TOOK REGARDING LEGISLATION AFFECTING THESE RELATIONS. ALTHOUGH I HAD NO DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF THE REASON FOR THE EVIDENT REFUSAL, I URGED MIKHAILOV IN THE STRONGEST TERMS TO INVESTIGAE THE PROBLEM AND TO DO WHATEVER POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE THE ISSUANCE OF THE VISA.

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2. MIKHAILOV PLEADED THAT HE WAS NOT FULLY INFORMED

ABOUT THE CASE, BUT HE SUSPECTED THE VISA HAD NOT BEEN
GRANTED SIMPLY BECAUSE OF THE UNAVAILABILITY OF
ACCOMMODATIONS SINCE THIS WAS THE HEIGHT OF THE TOURIST
SEASON. I INDICATED THAT IF THIS WERE THE CASE, THERE
SHOULD BE NO DIFFICULTY IN RESOLVING THE MATTER.
MIKHAILOV INDICATED THAT HIS OFFICE WOULD GET IN TOUCH
WITH "INTOURIST" AND I ASKED THAT EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT BE
INFORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE REGARDING PROGRESS ON THE CASE, SINCE
CONGRESSMAN DRINAN WAS PLANNING TO LEAVE WASHINGTON ON
AUGUST 20 FOR PRAGUE AND KIEV.
DUBS

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